6/15/71

Mr. Harrison Salisbury
The New York Times
229 W 43 St.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Salisbury,

If its recent abusive and dishonest treatment of me and my new book have not made me love the New York Times, its current dedication to the honorable tradition of American journalism earn respect and it has mine for it.

This is, further, a genuine public service, in my view a significant effort to enlighten the people so they may become aware of what is happening to our society, what has happened to representative government, what is happening to our traditional freedoms.

Living in the country and not getting the Times, I am dependent upon the little I have heard on radio the few moments I have been able to listen to it. From this scanty knowledge, one thing does seem clear, the official intent to prosecute.

So, somewhat in the position of a mouse offering to succor the elephant, I write to suggest that in this contingency I might be able to help. The areas of my research are not limited to investigation of the fact of the political assassinations only. One of these is legal in nature (I amm not a lawyer) and is not likely to suggest itself to your counsel.

A significant part of my recent work has related to the Department of Justice. When I filed suit against them and held a press conference, that was not news to the Times, although Tom Wicker said it certainly would be. When I won, that also was not news to the Times. Even that it was in the form of a rarity, a summary judgement against the Department. If man ever bit dog like this before, I have not heard of it. So, naturally, when I published what had been suppressed until I this broke it loose, instead of news, this was the inspiration of deliberate defamation by the Times, for which, lacking competent men of its own, it reached out and found a man totally disqualified by his own past and today a USIA propagandist. And, when caught in this, instead of the agonized rectification promised, it printed a false and further defamatory letter. Nonetheless, in the course of seeking remedy in the law, I have learned a bit about it that may, at some time, be of value to the Times.

If at some time the full text of what the Times is now printing becomes available, I would appreciate being able to get it.

Meanwhile, for this fine thing, congratulations.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg